

Message Text

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65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 OMB-01 IO-13 SSM-03 /076 W

----- 054388

R 081106Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3403

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS

SUBJECT: GOT FONMIN CHATTI RETURNS FROM MISSION TO LEBANON

EXPRESSING PESSIMISM

1. GOT FOREIGN MINISTER HABIB CHATTI, ONE OF THREE MEMBERS OF AN ARAB LEAGUE TEAM SENT TO ATTEMPT MEDIATION IN LEBANESE CRISIS, RETURNED TOTUNIS JULY 7. IN STATEMENT TO PRESS ON ARRIVAL, HE SAID THAT THE RESULTS OF THE MISSION WERE VERY SLIGHT AND THAT HE WAS DISTRESSED DESPITE ALL THE EFFORTS OF ARAB MEDIATORS, HE SAID, THE SITUATION CONTINUES TO DEGENERATE. NOTING THAT THE BLOODSHED HAD GONE ON FOR FIFTEEN MONTHS, CHATTI SAID THAT IT WAS NOT REASONABLE TO EXPECT IMMEDIATE RESULTS.

2. CHATTI ALSO TOLD PRESS THAT TUNISIAN PARTICIPATION IN MEDIATING MISSION HAD BEEN "VERY FAVORABLY"

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RECEIVED BECAUSE OF TUNISIA'S WELL-KNOWN MODERATION, ITS

WISDOM, AND ITS POLITICAL FARSIGHTEDNESS. ASKED ABOUT FUTURE MEDIATION EFFORTS, CHATTI SAID ARABS SHOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS TO RESOLVE CRISIS, BUT HE ADDED THAT NO ONE CAN PREDICT WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

3. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT CHATTI DISCUSSED HIS MISSION IN LEBANON WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS RETURN, BUT NO DETAILS OF THIS MEETING WERE GIVEN.

4. COMMENT: IN ITS TREATMENT OF LEBANESE CRISIS, GOT HAS EMPHASIZED DAMAGE DONE TO PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND "PLOTS" TO PARTITION LEBANON. CHATTI APPARENTLY FELT THAT HIS ROLE AS MEDIATOR PREVENTED HIM FROM REPEATING THESE VIEWS ON RETURN FROM HIS FRUITLESS MISSION.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MINISTERIAL VISITS, INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TUNIS04810
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760263-0435
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760777/aaaacpru.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOT FONMIN CHATTI RETURNS FROM MISSION TO LEBANON EXPRESSING PESSIMISM
TAGS: PFOR, TS, LE, XF, AL, (CHATTI, HABIB)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006